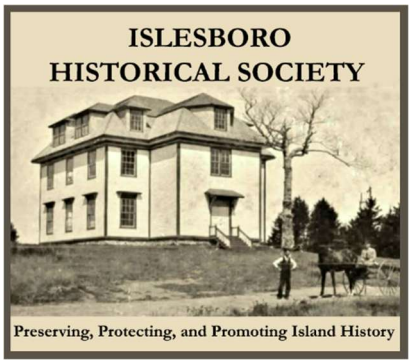


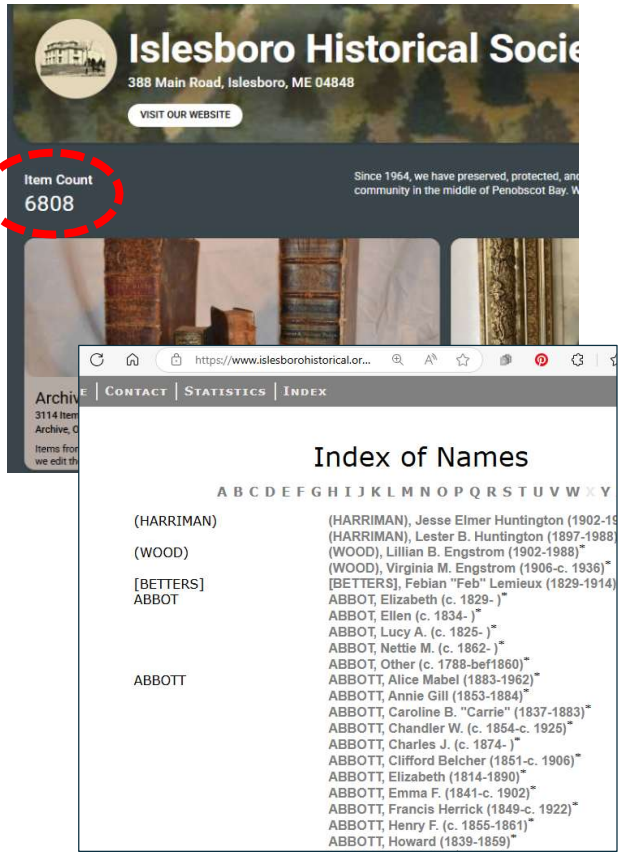
Our Mission

Founded in 1964, our mission is to bring together people interested in the history of Islesboro, for the purpose of collecting, preserving, presenting, and promoting materials related to the town's history and culture and its role in history. Materials of interest include printed and manuscript documents and records, paintings, photographs and moving images, maps, objects, artifacts, and buildings associated with the history of Islesboro and its residents.

Our Progress

As an all-volunteer organization, IHS has made incredible strides in fulfilling our mission over the decades despite aging facilities, a growing collection, and limited resources for maintaining the collection and expanding its accessibility. During 2025, we will continue to provide a range of information and events to our members including:

- Guest speaker series, history talks, history walks, talent nights, art shows, musical events, and open Museum hours continue apace.
- Digital access to our collection continues to grow, including the archives collection, online genealogy, videos of previous events, and the recently launched online bookstore.
- The Museum continues to add exhibits, including last year's Pub exhibit and this summer's launch of the John Mitchell audio/visual room.



The Road Ahead

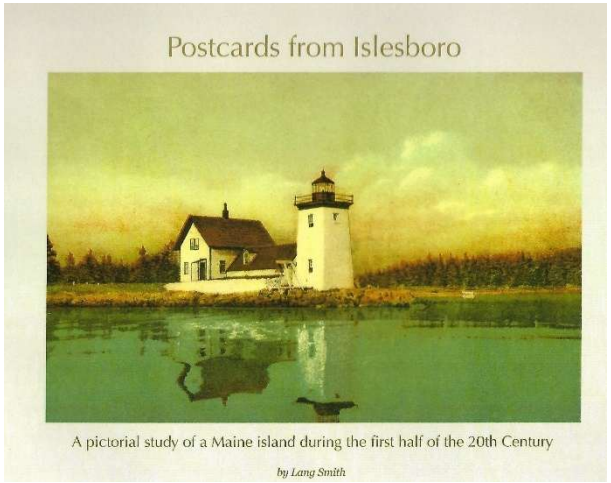
With less than a breakeven operating budget each year, our volunteers continue to find ways to fulfill our Mission, but we face challenges. In July 2018, IHS had a full Conservation Assessment awarded through the Collections Assessment Preservation (CAP) program. The resulting 133-page assessment document summarizes Immediate, Interim and Long-term priorities for protecting and displaying our history.

- **Facilities:** The building was constructed in 1894 as the Town Hall, later school. Today, poor archival conditions put the collections at risk of deterioration and loss, including high recorded humidity over the seasons and years. Structural items that require immediate attention include dormer shingling and water damage to the front foundation sill and stairs.
- **Archives:** While 6847 entries have been digitally archived (incredible!), many more remain unarchived, and the influx of new items outpaces our abilities to keep up. Only 1358 of these have digital photos.
- **Genealogy:** We now have 20,212 names with genealogical data online for both year-round and summer families, but this is woefully out of date by at least two generations.
- **Membership:** We are very lucky to have loyal and engaged Members, but need to bring newcomers and the next generation of supporters to IHS. New programming and exhibitions that keep our history alive require the ideas, hands, and financial support of many.

Our Goals for 2025

In keeping with our Mission, we have established goals to help bring more of our history to life for our members:

1) Increase Membership participation by 20% over the next year.
2) Engage younger generations and those new to the island and IHS.
3) Seek means of helping restore the building and improve archival conditions.
4) Advance digitization of the collection making it more accessible to Members.
5) Update genealogical database through Member participation.
6) Continue to host the events and activities that help Members partake in, and contribute to, our long rich history.



We Need Your Help

On a personal note, thank you for trusting me to take the wheel of what has been guided by the steady hand of Patrick O'Bannon, who remains in the fold. Thanks also for having been dedicated members of the society over the years. Without you, we would never have gotten this far. We ask for your help in ways large and small:

-Introduce others to our events, museum, online resources, and volunteering.

-Submitting genealogical information not yet captured in the two island history volumes and our online genealogical database.

-Giving: We are grateful for every contribution. If you have not yet made a donation to the IHS, please consider doing so this year. There is much work to be done.

—Ted Pendleton

Resources

Visit our website to access membership giving and donations, online archives, genealogy, bookstore, schedule of events, and pictures and videos of previous events. Also visit us via Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

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